

## House Resolution No. 183

**Whereas**, it is with tremendous pride and gratitude that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in their diverse legislative endeavors to acknowledge a milestone event in the history of a Show-Me State cultural icon; and

**Whereas**, the Missouri Theatre of Columbia, Missouri, has attained the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of its founding as a visionary dream of attorney J. Dozier Stone in the early 1920s; and

**Whereas**, with construction groundbreaking for a theater and associated retail shops occurring in 1927, the Missouri Theatre opened on October 5, 1928, to show Buster Keaton in Steamboat Bill, Jr., as the premiere feature to more than 3,000 viewers willing to ante up the twenty-five cent entrance fee; and

**Whereas**, known as a \$400,000 show house of unrivaled beauty and extravagance, the Missouri Theatre contained ornate, gilded Louis XIV and Louis XV plaster reliefs gracing soaring arches, stained art-glass panels shimmering with colorful accents, a Robert Morton pipe organ, and an 1,800-pound brass auditorium chandelier imported from Italy with crystal prisms, etched glass panels, and more than 200 light bulbs; and

**Whereas**, the Missouri Theatre was acquired by Commonwealth in 1953, remodeled by the company's Roy Tucker in 1954, "modernized" in 1967, and purchased by the Missouri Symphony Society in December 1987, and it opened for one last movie during January 1988 in which Dave Jones, director of theatre operations for Commonwealth, served champagne and allowed viewers to sit in the balcony for the first time in fifteen years; and

**Whereas**, now known as the newly-restored Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts, the Missouri Theatre is home to three grassroots, not-for-profit arts organizations, including the Missouri Symphony Society and the Columbia Art League:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the founding of the Missouri Theatre seventy-five years ago and to convey to all of those involved in its current arts projects and programs this legislative body's heartiest congratulations and best wishes for continued success for many more years to come; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the establishment of the Missouri Theatre in Columbia, Missouri.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Vicky Riback Wilson  
District No. 25

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 183, adopted January 29, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker